

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-13 and 16-24 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 3, 4, 14 and 15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,768,232 (hereinafter "Farber"). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farber. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farber in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,395,540 (hereinafter "Gisser"). Claims 1-7, 9, 12-14, 17-20 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,997,977 (hereinafter "Katayama"). Claims 8, 10-11 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katayama in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0179260 (hereinafter "Anderson"). Claims 15-16 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant submits the following in traversal of the claim rejections.

Rejection of Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-11 under 102(b) by Farber

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable because Farber fails to disclose or suggest:

An image recording apparatus which records an image on a recording medium, the image recording apparatus comprising in a housing thereof:

a water vapor removing section which removes water vapor; and

a solvent recovering section which recovers vapor of organic solvent,
which evaporates within the housing

wherein the water vapor removing section is provided at an inlet port which takes in air from outside of the housing into the inside of the housing

the solvent recovering section is provided at an outlet port which exhausts air from the inside of the housing to the outside of the housing, and

the inlet port and the outlet port are provided at the housing of the image recording apparatus.

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable because Farber fails to disclose or suggest an image recording apparatus wherein the water vapor removing section is provided at an inlet port . . . , the solvent recovering section is provided at an outlet port . . . , and the inlet port and the outlet port are provided at the housing of the image recording apparatus, in combination with other elements of the claim 1.

In addition, claim 1 is further patentable for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, the Examiner adopts a broad construction of the claimed housing as including a building. Applicant disagrees. Applicant submits that the claim recites “the image recording apparatus comprising in a housing thereof.” In other words, the claim recites a housing of the image recording apparatus and, thus, the claimed housing cannot be a building.

Furthermore, the claim recites “organic solvent, which evaporates within the housing.” Therefore, according to the Examiner’s construction, the organic solvent would evaporate inside a building and the relatively large interior space associated with buildings would make any solvent recovery impractical.

Even assuming arguendo, that the claimed housing is correctly construed as including a building, Farber discloses that the air stream containing vaporized solvent leaves the processing plant 16 through a vent 18. Col. 2, lines 6-8. In effect, the solvent evaporates in the plant 16. The vaporized solvent is channeled to a vapor absorption section 12 that is separate from the vapor delivery section 10 of the processing plant 16. In other words, Farber suggests having the evaporation of the solvent into vapor form in one building (processing plant 16) and the vapor absorption section 12 in another building. Therefore, Farber cannot possibly disclose the housing as recited in the claim.

Claims 2, 6 and 8-10, which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 1.

Rejection of Claim 5 under § 103(a) over Farber

Applicant submits that claim 5, which depends from claim 1, is patentable for reasons submitted for claim 1 and because the claimed housing is not obvious to one skilled in the art.

Rejection of Claim 7 under § 103(a) over Farber in view of Gisser

Applicant submits that claim 7, which depends from claim 1, is patentable for reasons submitted for claim 1 and because Gisser fails to make up for the deficiencies of Farber.

Rejection of Claims 1-7, 9, 12-14, 17-20 and 22-23 under § 102(b) by Katayama

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable because Katayama fails to disclose or suggest an image recording apparatus wherein the water vapor removing section is provided at an inlet port . . . , the solvent recovering section is provided at an outlet port . . . , and the inlet port and the outlet port are provided at the housing of the image recording apparatus, in combination with other elements of the claim 1.

Applicant submits that claim 1 is additionally patentable because Katayama fails to disclose or suggest a solvent recovering section which recovers vapor of organic solvent, which evaporates within the housing, in combination with other elements of the claim. In the Office Action, the Examiner points out the heat-exchange condenser 14 as corresponding to the housing wherein the organic solvent evaporates. The organic solvent, however, does not evaporate within the heat-exchange condenser 14 which is disposed inside the stand 12. Rather, the organic solvent evaporates in the fixing-drying chamber 1 which is separate from the stand 12. Therefore, the heat-exchange condenser 14 cannot correspond to the claimed solvent recovering section.

Claims 2, 5-7, 9, 19 and 20, which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 1.

In addition, claim 2 is patentable because the fan 22 cited by the Examiner does not disclose the claimed inlet port which takes in air from outside of the housing into the inside of

the housing. Not only does the fan 22 expel the air out the stand 12, there is nothing to suggest that the fan 22 takes in air from outside of the stand 12 and into the inside of the stand 12.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 14 and allowable dependent claim 15 and claim 12 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 13, 17, 18, 22 and 23, which depend from claim 12, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 12.

Rejection of Claims 8, 10, 11 and 21 under § 103(a) over Katayama in view of Anderson

Claims 8, 10, 11 and 21, which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 1 and because Anderson fails to make up for the deficiencies of Katayama.

Lastly, new claim 24 is added and is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 12.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
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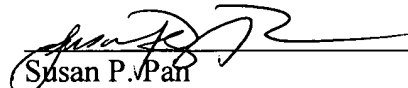
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